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E.O11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JAPANESE ELECTIONS: THE FIRST POST-MORTEM

EMBASSY TOKYO REPORTS THAT THE RESULTS OF SUNDAY'S DIET ELECTIONS INDICATE THAT VOTERS, WHILE DELIVERING A SHARP SETBACK TO CANDIDATES SPONSORED BY JAPAN'S RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, REJECTED RADICAL ALTERNATIVES AND OPTED FOR CENTRIST, YOUTHFUL CANDIDATES. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES:

--THE LDP ELECTION DEFEAT COULD WELL MEAN THE RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER MIKI WITHIN THE WEEK, AND MAY HAVE ENDED FUKUDA'S ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER.

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--THE EXPECTED AFFILIATION OF SOME CONSERVATIVE INDE-

PENDENTS WITH THE LDP SHOULD ASSURE IT OF A WORKING MAJORITY AND ENABLE IT TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, ITS RAZOR-THIN EDGE IN THE DIET MAY FORCE THE LDP TO RELY ON COOPERATION FROM SOME OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS -- FOR WHICH IT WILL HAVE TO PAY A PRICE. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 17935, 12/6.)

2. CANADA: ALPHONSE AND GASTON AT HOME

EMBASSY OTTAWA PREDICTS THERE WILL BE NO IMMEDIATE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND QUEBEC GOVERNMENTS. IN THE EMBASSY'S OPINION:

--THE PARTI QUEBECOIS WILL MAKE NO EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS AT THE CURRENT MEETING OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTERS OR AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING NEXT WEEK.

--THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTEREST IN PUSHING ANY NEW OR SENSITIVE ISSUES NOW.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SCRUPULOUS EFFORTS OF BOTH SIDES TO DISPLAY "BUSINESS AS USUAL" FACES AT THE TWO FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES DOES NOT MEAN A LACK OF HARD BARGAINING. WHAT WE DO NOT EXPECT TO SEE AT THESE CONFERENCES, OR EVEN FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, IS A MAJOR PQ-FEDERAL CONFRONTATION. RATHER, WE ARE IN THE CIRCLING AND SNIFFING STAGE, IN WHICH EACH WANTS THE OTHER TO TRY FOR THE FIRST BITE. (CONFIDENTIAL) OTTAWA 4809, 12/6.)

3. ROMANIA: REFLECTIONS ON THE WARSAW PACT SUMMIT

IN A SESSION ASSESSING THE WARSAW PACT SUMMIT AND THE BREZHNEV/CEAUSESCU MEETING, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TOLD FELLOW NATO AMBASSADORS IN BUCHAREST THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU CLAIMED:

--THE SUMMIT HAD PRODUCED NOTHING NEW AND THE ROMANIANS HAD GIVEN NOTHING AWAY.

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--THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' COMMITTEE AND THE SECRETARIAT MERELY INSTITUTIONALIZED EARLIER SPORADIC PRACTICES.

--INCREASED CONSULTATIONS WILL NOT LEAD TO RESTRICTIONS ON THE FREEDOM OF ROMANIA, WHICH INSTEAD INTENDS TO EXPAND ITS BILATERAL CONSULTATION WITH ALL EUROPEAN STATES.

EMBASSY BUCHAREST COMMENT: THE CONSENSUS OF THE NATO AMBASSADORS IS THAT THE BREZHNEV/CEAUSESCU MEETING WAS A STAND-OFF AND THAT THE ROMANIANS ARE NOW STRIVING TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE HAS CHANGED. IF

SO, THIS MAY DISAPPOINT THOSE ROMANIANS WHO HAD HOPED THAT IMPROVED SOVIET/ROMANIAN RELATIONS WOULD LEAD TO A RELAXATION OF INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUCHAREST 7165, 12/6.)

4. PRC EMBASSY IN MOSCOW DISCLAIMS PROGRESS IN BORDER DISPUTE

CHINESE DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW ARE SKEPTICAL THAT SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ILICHEV BROUGHT BACK ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW SOVIET OFFERS ON HIS RECENT RETURN TO PEKING. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY MOSCOW, THE CHINESE HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE TRIP WAS SOLELY AT MOSCOW'S INITIATIVE AND WAS NOT IN ITSELF AN INDICATION OF ANY PROGRESS IN SETTLING THE BORDER DISPUTE. THEY ADDED THAT SOVIET GESTURES AT CONCILIATION SINCE THE DEATH OF MAO HAVE REALLY BEEN AIMED, NOT AT PEKING, BUT AT WASHINGTON. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 19075, 12/6.)

5. ZAIRE THINKS TWICE ABOUT TAKING ON OPEC

FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA TOLD AMBASSADOR CUTLER ON DECEMBER 4 THAT ZAIRE IS STILL WORRIED ABOUT AN OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE, BUT WILL NOT RAISE THE POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE ISSUE AT THIS MONTH'S OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. RETREATING FROM HIS EARLIER POSITION THAT THE GOZ MIGHT SPONSOR A RESOLUTION ON OIL PRICES AT THE CONFERENCE, NGUZA SAID HE

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WOULD LIMIT HIMSELF TO DISCREET LOBBYING AND A PERSONAL APPEAL TO THE OPEC MEMBERS OF THE OAU, AND DOUBTED THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS LIKELY TO DO MORE THAN APPEAL TO OPEC FOR SPECIAL RELIEF FOR AFRICAN LDC'S.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: AS WE ANTICIPATED, NGUZA HAS HAD TO MODIFY HIS IDEAS ABOUT TAKING THE LEAD ON THE OIL PRICE ISSUE. ZAIRE APPARENTLY WANTS A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE TOO BADLY TO RISK AN AFRICAN/ARAB CONFRONTATION OVER OIL, AND MAY STILL CLING TO HOPES OF SPECIAL OPEC GENEROSITY FOR LDC'S. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINSHASA 10206, 12/6.) KISSINGER

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